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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Weekly Summary

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F. Premilitary and Paramilitary Training

GDR

1. German Border Police (GBP)

Beginning in Dec 1957, SU-76s have been picked up at NVA tank repair shop Neubrandenburg by GBP details 25X1

(Comment: Statements by deserters confirm arrival of tanks which have been stored at posts, but have not yet been used. In late fall 1957, bulk of personnel required probably still engaged in special courses by NVA.)

2. DVP

In orders of HVDVP, all VP Kreisaemter on alert (so-called "reinforced service") during Berlin "Gruene Woche" from 30 Jan to 10 Feb 1958. During this period, all travellers to Berlin to be registered 25X1

(Comment: Info indicates that increased difficulties in tourist traffic incl stricter controls and, in this connection, unexpected employment of DVP in East Berlin can be expected during the "Gruene Woche".)

3. Combat Groups

In 1957, combat groups from various districts of GDR repeatedly detached personnel for sub-leader training to Fuegen Island 25X1

Seperate courses for Hundertschaft commanders and deputies, polit personnel, chiefs interior service (Innendienstleiter-Hf) and sub-leaders for supply of combat groups started on 4 Nov. Such courses presum scheduled for all city districts by all VP Inspektionen in charge (F-3).

In Dec 1957, special courses for group leaders detached from MTS districts for activation of new Hundertschaften were held at Kreis level. Estimates of costs had to be forwarded to BDVP 25X1

On 8 Jan 1958, the third quarterly and/or qualification course for Hundertschaft commanders was to start in Schwerwitz Kreis Belzig, Potsdam district. Financing of course by BDVP 25X1

(Comment: Above info reflects most important aims of second training phase (1957/1958): activation of new Hundertschaften, intensive training of new and experienced leading personnel.)

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E. Navy

I. GDR

1958 Construction Program of the Central Shipyards in the GDR

1. Mathias-Thesen Shipyard in Wismar

a. 2 sea passenger ships for USSR; date of completion: Jun and Dec 1958.

b. 7 river passenger ships, one to be completed in the first quarter and two in each of the following quarters of 1958.

c. 1 fishing and factory vessel; overall length, 85.1 meters; length between perpendiculars, 75 meters; width, 13.5 meters; draft moulded, 5 meters; 1 screw; 1 x 8-cylinder four-stroke supercharged engine. Planned degree of completion about 30 percent.

d. Construction of 1 x 100-ton floating crane for own requirements to be started. Furthermore, approximately 30 million DM scheduled for repair of Soviet ice-breaker KRASSIN.

2. Neptun Shipyard in Rostock

a. 2 x 3,000-ton freighter with oil furnace, for export, first half 1958.

b. 5 x 3,000-ton freighter with diesel engine, for USSR, second half 1958.

c. 5 lifting vessels for USSR; 1 vessel to be completed in the first, third, and fourth and 2 vessels in the second quarter of 1958.

d. 1 railroad ferry for traffic between Sassnitz and [redacted]; to be about half completed by end of year. 25X1

e. 1 pilot tender for GDR, to be delivered in March 1958.

3. Warnow Shipyard in Warnemuende

a. 5 freighters, type IV, 10,000 tons dwt, in all 4 for GDR and 1 for export; two freighters to be completed in the first and one each in the following quarters of 1958.

b. 4 coal ore freighters, 7,000 tons dwt, for USSR.

c. Budget provides for 40 million DME for reconstruction of whale factory ship YURI DOLGORUKI.

4. National Shipyard in Stralsund

a. 59 loggers for USSR, construction to be carried out in period from January to September.

b. 20 medium trawlers, for USSR, incl. to be completed in third and 16 in fourth quarter of 1958

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c. 32 [redacted] loggers for export, to be delivered between mid and late 1958. 25X1

d. 1 refrigerated carrier, probably 3,000 tons dwc, for USSR, planned degree of completion about 60 percent.

e. 4 x 15-ton floating cranes for USSR, two each in third and south quarter of 1958 (C-2). 25X1

[redacted]

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D. Air Force

I. USSR

1. Command and Training of Troops

No changes observed with regard to air activity by Twenty-Fourth Air Army.

2. Logistics

Improvement work at Cochstedt airfield will presumably begin in spring 1958.

(Comment: Planned improvement work at Cochstedt airfield in 1958 has been confirmed by another reliable report. By late 1957, concreting work was completed on the whole width of the following autobahn strips which are thus suitable as auxiliary take-off and landing strips:

A 2,000-meter strip of autobahn Berlin-Nuernberg (51°19 N/12°10 E).

A 12-15-km strip of the autobahn north of Dessau (51°40'N / 12°12' E), referred to as Rennstrecke; 2 or 3 bridges cross at intervals of 3-4 km.

A 2,500-meter strip of autobahn Berlin-Frankfurt/Oder (52°18'30'' N / 13°50' E).

A 2,500-meter strip of autobahn Berlin-Dresden (51°25'N/13°49').

A 2,000-meter strip of autobahn Gotha-Weimar (50°55' N / 11°00' E).

(Comment: Special attention must be paid to the improvement of autobahn strips for use as auxiliary runways in connection with a dispersal and expansion of the airfield net for protection against atomic and nuclear attacks. It is expected that more autobahn strips will be improved for the same purpose.)

II. GDR

Command and Training of Troops

In late 1957, the 6th Air Tech Bn at Neubrandenburg airfield was redesignated Technical Training Battalion of the Rear Services. The transfer of the battalion to another airfield was planned. Neubrandenburg was scheduled to be newly occupied by Bautzen Instruction and Training Battalion (LAB) which is to be increased to regimental strength in 1958 (C-3).

(Comment: Redesignation, reported for the first time, appears probable in connection with the previous assignment of the 6th Air Tech Bn. The present location is not known. The transfer of LAB from Bautzen to Neubrandenburg is presumably connected with the reoccupation of Bautzen-Litten airfield by flying unit, presumably fighter school.)

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III. Poland

Organization of Troops

1. As of Sep 1957, Polish Ftr Regt APN 1465 Breslau-Schoengarten (51°06' N / 16°55 E), which is subordinated to Ftr Div Breslau-Schoengarten, was organized as follows: 1st Sq, exclusive squadron; 2nd Sq conditionally ready for action; 3rd Sq, training and replacement training squadron. 1st and 2nd Sqs participated in training of young pilots to a limited degree when too many new pilots arrived. Young pilots were 3rd class pilot insignia, advanced pilots were 2nd class insignia, and exclusive pilots were 1st class insignia (F-3).

(Comment: It has not yet been confirmed that there are 3 stages of readiness for action between the 3 Polish squadrons and that the 3rd Sq usually is a training and replacement training squadron. In case of war, a 3rd operational squadron and a 4th squadron as training squadron might be activated of the surplus pilots.)

2. Until Aug 1957, Stolp/Reitz airfield was occupied by almost 50 MiG-15s including some UMIG-15s with Polish nationality markings (F-3).

(Comment: This info indicates that, in addition to the Ftr Regts in Seeger, Marienburg, Preust and Zandek, the assumed Polish Ftr Regt at Stolp/Reitz airfield has also been brought up to peace aircraft strength.)

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C. Army

I. USSR (GDR)

1. Troop Movements and Locatio

In mid-Dec 1957, several tr ck columns and billeting equipment seen on Bernburg-Rosslau road. Assumed that Adolf Hitler Kaserne, Bernburg, being evacuated [redacted] 25X1

(Comment: Undetermined that u/i Engr Regt/GSFG permanently transferred from Bernburg to Rosslau area.)

2. Order of Battle

Late Dec 57, 30 tanks observed with another former Mtn Rifle Regt/57th Gds Mtn Rifle Div (Meer) [redacted] 25X1

(Comment: New indication of reorganization of Mtn Rifle Divs into Mech Divs.)

3. Training

Training conducted predominantly at posts. Tank firing details occasionally went to tng grounds. Transfer of additional AAA units, predominantly to Wustrow, observed especially betw 3 and 7 Jan 1958. Transfer presum involved elms 2d Gds AAA Div/GSFG, 4th Gds AAA Div/First Gds Mech Army (Tank), 6th AAA Div/Fourth Gds Mech Army, 13th AAA Div/Eighth Gds Army (Mech) and AAA units from Warder [redacted] 25X1

(Comment: After personnel exchange appeared to have generally terminated in late Dec (see B), normal training was resumed by all units. AAA firing practices started gradually. Since early Jan, scale of practices normal for this time of year.)

II. GDR

Training

As a result of Christmas and New Year holidays, training fully resumed only in second week of Jan. In some cases, transfer to tng grounds scheduled for second decade Jan. Firing practices of AAA units or elms on restricted scale under way at Wustrow since mid-Dec [redacted] 25X1

(Comment: Info indicates that new tng year has started. Winter firing practices of AAA units started appr 1.5 months earlier than in 1957. Abovementioned practices may have involved only instruction personnel and tng units.)

III. Poland

1. Organization

In Oct 1957, 8th Arty Shock Div (Dywizja Artylerja Przeciwpancerna) stationed at Arys tng gr. Div incl following units:

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Div Hq with Hq units	Schlagakrug, 10 km SE Arys
u/i hv gun arty brig	Schlagakrug
u/i hv gun arty brig	Arys
u/i hv Mort brig	Arys
u/i RL Bn	Schlagakrug

Arys and Schlamakrug are permanent posts of div [redacted] 25X1

(Comment: Thus, 8th Arty Shock Div again observed and again confirmed that it incl elms of arty high-angle fire div and elms of arty flat-fire div. Still undetermined if u/i Hv Gun Arty Brig last confirmed in Angerburg (50 km NW Arys) in Nov 1957 also belongs to 8th Arty Shock Div.

Tank SP Brig observed in Arys in Dec 1956 probably did not belong to 8th Arty Shock Div. Unit left Arys in May 1957, accord to unconfirmed report, for Lublin.)

2. Order of Battle

In Oct 1957, the 16th Inf Regt (Krakow) was being reorganized into a mecz regt. At this time, unit consisted of 1 mecz bn with 1 machine gun co with 2 hv (8 x 7,72-mm) machine gun pls and 1 mort pl with 3 x 82-mm M-43 morts, 1 arty bn with 76-mm M-42 field guns and AT guns, 1 tk bn (in Oct 1957, tanks not yet observed), an NCO school with 80 students (9-month courses) and 1 military band. Total strength of regt in Oct 1956 appr 600 men plus some 200 - 300 recruits assigned to regt for 3-month trng. While, in 1956, exclusively red cap bands were observed, elms of regt wore black cap bands in Oct 1957 [redacted] 25X1

(Comment: First indication of reorganization of 6th Div (Krakow). 14th Inf Regt also confirmed in Tarnow in Oct 1957. Info furnishes further indication of progressive reorganization aiming at modernization of Polish Army.)

Armament and strength of 8th Arty Shock Div (Arys-Schlagakrug) in Oct 1957:

Unit	Armament	Strength
u/i hv gun arty Brig Schlagakrug	appr 50-60 x 122-mm M-31-37 field guns	appr 1,000 men
u/i HV Gun Arty Brig Arys	mainly M-31-37 122-mm field guns, lt and hv AT guns, 76-2-mm guns and 130-mm long-barreled guns	appr 1,200 men
u/i Hv Mort Brig Arys	appr 30 x 160-mm hv morts	1,200 men
u/i RL Bn Schlagakrug	u/i number M-31 RLs	250 men

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Appr 25 percent of div consisted of reservists or personnel serving only restricted period [redacted] 25X1

(Comment: Info received after Dec 1956 indicates slowly proceeding modernization of armament. Two batteries of Gun Arty Brig Arys were equipped with new 130-mm M-54 (?) long-barreled guns. The R/T Bn in Schlagaleng which, acc to other reports, had still been equipped with 132-mm (M-13) RLs in Dec 1956, has apparently been completely reequipped with 300-mm (M-31) RLs. The Mtn Mort Brig Arys expected to have its 160-mm morts replaced by 240-mm (?) morts in late fall of 1957. Personnel serving short terms included those who, for personal or other reasons, had not been inducted for 2-year basic training. Instead they received a 3-month basic trng. Reservists observed with the units engaged in reservist exercises provided for by compulsory service law (NCOs in every third and EM in every fifth reserve year).)

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B. Armed Forces

I. USSR and "United" Forces (Warsaw Pact)

1. Higher Echelon Organization and Personnel

On 10 Jan 1958, Gen F.I. Golikov mentioned in press report as Chief Main Polit Adm of Soviet Army and Navy.

(Comment: So far, Gen A.S. Zheltov reported as Chief Main Polit Adm of Defense Ministry. Gen F.I. Golikov became Chief of Main Adm for Cadres of Defense Ministry (Main Personnel Office) in Mar 1944; still carried in this position.)

2. Total Strength

Personnel Exchange (GDR - USSR)

Prior to late Dec, the following additional personnel-shuttle trains were observed crossing the border:

USSR - GDR : 10 loaded trains

GDR - USSR : 4 loaded trains 25X1

Removal of equipment from shuttle trains started late Dec 25X1

(Comment: It appears that personnel exchange generally completed. Evaluation of results will be forwarded as soon as final data available.

II. GDR

Higher Echelon Organization and Personnel

Gen v Mueller's Suspension

Soviet Zone Defense Min Willi Stoph reported at meeting of SED Polit Bureau on 20 Dec 1957 on investigation into case of Vinzenz Mueller who, meanwhile, was suspended from service. Acc to available material, Mueller allegedly not only tolerated but also participated in discussions of field-grade officers against intensified SED and Politruk influence on NVA, and even instigated resistance against such influence.

On basis of discriminating material available, SED got permission of Soviet Military Adm for suspension of Mueller who is under close confinement. Investigation still under way. Military penal proceedings against Mueller to be expected. Gen Mueller's previous staff to be completely reorganized. Gen Dickel, SED member, suggested for temporary chief of staff. Entire cadre section of NVA simultaneously reorganized. Gustav Roebelen, so far leading member of office Inner Security of SED Central Committee under Honnecker, was assigned position of Chief of Politruks of NVA in Strausberg. Stoph also announced that some 200 political officer positions with NVA units have been filled and refilled and that political indoctrination of army personnel made satisfactory progress 25X1

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(Comment: New assignment of Gustav Roebelen and reshuffle among some 200 polit officer pseitions recently also reported by another, credible source. Therefore, info on Mueller's suspension and expected proceedings also given credit, however, needs confirmation. Less probable statement that Mueller encourage resistance of field-grade officers against SED influence in political discussion.)

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A. Political-Economic

1. Rapacki Plan

Foreign Min Rapacki drew up for Polish representatives in Western countries the following new directives for treatment of question of atom-free zone in Central Europe:

a. Rapacki Plan only basis of discussion permitting modifications. All suggestions will be appreciated and thoroughly examined by Polish Government.

b. Polish Government aims at genuine lessening of tensions between East and West, regardless of way by which this goal may be reached.

c. Polish Government does not connect to this plan any hidden motives, nor is there the intention to force West Germany into situation in which she would have to acknowledge and accept as second German partner in discussions the GDR.

d. Polish plan based on satisfactory international control of terms agreed upon. Warsaw ready to accept any form of control.

e. Polish Government wants to stress its peaceful intentions and its determination not to change balance of military power.

Polish representatives had been instructed to avoid topic of territorial status and rather to suggest that Polish Government ready to discuss this question later but, at present, considered security questions more important.

[redacted]

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(Comment: The far-reaching compromises toward the West worth noting. Although Rapacki Plan known to be backed by Soviets, still undetermined whether or not it was initiated by Soviets, or else the Polish themselves. It cannot be completely denied that possible national-Polish aims would be furthered by realisation of Rapacki Plan. But even if so, and regardless of possibility that Moscow does not fully approve of details, plan must be understood as inducement destined to make more attractive for the West the idea of negotiations.)

2. Soviet Troop Reductions and Military Budget

Double purpose of new reduction of Soviet Armed Forces by 0.3 million men, similar to preceding one, is to rectify labor shortage and, at the same time, demonstrate Soviet will to peace.

However, simultaneously with discharges, expenditures for equipment were considerably increased.

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Personnel Strength	Military Budget				
in mill	total in bill rubles	thereof expenditures for personnel		equipment	
		total in bill rubl	rubl pro capita and year	total in bill rubl	rubl pro capita and year
1954 5	100	30	6,000	70	14,000
1958 apnr 3	96	16	5,500	80	28,000

1958 Expenditures for rations, clothing, billets etc decreased by 14 billion rubles, as compared to 1954; total military expenditures decreased by 4 billion rubles; thus, 10 billion more rubles available for weapons, equipment and vehicles, while personnel strength was reduced. Subsequently, twice as much can be spent on equipment per capita in 1958.

See also supplement.

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